



DOE Proposes Modification To Hazardous Waste Facility Permit

Changes to the WIPP Hazardous Waste Facility Permit

Background

The U.S. Department of Energy Carlsbad Field Office (DOE) and Washington TRU Solutions LLC (WTS) submitted a Class 2 permit modification request to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) to change the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (Permit) on July 5, 2012. The NMED issued the Permit (Permit Number: NM4890139088-TSDF) in November 2010.

What is Proposed?

Addition of a Shielded Container

The generator/storage sites are proposing to package a portion of the remote-handled (RH) transuranic (TRU) mixed waste inventory in shielded containers for disposal at the WIPP facility. The approval of the shielded containers will enable the WIPP facility to manage, store, and dispose RH TRU mixed waste as CH TRU mixed waste. Shielded containers have already been approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for transport to the WIPP facility in 3-pack assemblies in the HalfPACT transportation package. Shielded containers also comply with the U.S. Department of Transportation requirements for a Type 7A container. The RH TRU mixed waste that will be packaged in these containers is the same type of waste that is currently being disposed at the WIPP facility. This waste will continue to count against the total RH TRU waste volume allowed for disposal at the WIPP facility as specified in the Permit.

The shielded containers are similar to a 55-gallon drum, however, they consist of approximately one-inch of lead shielding that is located between an inner and outer steel wall and approximately 3" of steel on the top and bottom. Once shielded containers arrive at the WIPP facility, employees will unload and process the shipment in the Waste Handling Building using existing CH-TRU mixed waste shipment equipment and procedures.

Comments

Comments for the record must be sent to Ms. Trais Kliphuis, New Mexico Environment Department, 2905 Rodeo Park Drive, Building 1, Santa Fe, NM 87505. They also may be e-mailed: trais.kliphuis@state.nm.us or faxed to 505-476-6060. Only written comments

will be accepted and must be received no later than 5 p.m. (MDT) on September 10, 2012. A copy of the permit modification may be viewed or copied at the NMED offices of Ms. Kliphuis. To be placed on the WIPP mailing list, contact Ms. Kliphuis at the address above.

***For more
Information***

For more information about transuranic waste shipments and procedures, call the WIPP Information Center at 1-800-336-WIPP (9477). This permit modification request is available for review in the Information Repository located on the WIPP home page at www.wipp.energy.gov. Comments to the Permittees regarding this permit modification may be sent to Mr. Bobby St. John, Washington TRU Solutions LLC, P.O. Box 2078, Carlsbad, NM 88221.